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## Northern Lambda Nord Communique, Vol.9, No.7 (August/ September 1988)

Northern Lambda Nord

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# COMMUNIQUE

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GAY-LESBIAN PHONELINE/TÉLÉGAÏ - 207 498-2088

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## NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD RECEIVES ANOTHER GRANT

For the fifth time in its eight year history, this organization has been awarded a grant-in-aid for operating expenses. This time, the \$985 grant is for funding one year's expenses of this newsletter, *Communiqué*. The Maine Regional Board of the Haymarket People's Fund of New England, in their notification of the funding, noted "the courageous work of the organization in fighting homophobia in northern Maine and New Brunswick (is) cheered on. The Board would like the greatest emphasis possible placed on raising political awareness and requests that HPF's support be credited in the newsletter." Since 1984, when Lambda received a \$7500 grant for general expenses of the group, NLN has been the recipient of nearly \$15,000 in financial aid from three different sources: The Chicago Resource Center, RESIST, and Haymarket. ▽

## SUMMARY OF JULY 31st MEETING

The main agenda item was planning for Lambda's sponsorship of the 1989 conference, the Maine Lesbian and Gaymen's Symposium XVI, scheduled for Memorial Day weekend, the last weekend of May, on the campus of the University of Maine/Presque Isle. The main topics of discussion were those which were reflected by the written comments from the last NLN-sponsored Symposium in 1986. Symposium participants were asked for positive and negative criticisms of Symposium XIII. At this planning meeting, the comments were read aloud and discussed. Some issues were resolved, others noted for further discussion. Topics of concern included: \* allow time for popular workshops to be repeated if needed \* designate smoke-free areas \* provide quiet space for conversation at dances \* review alcohol policy \* provide alternative activities in evenings (such as singing, tournaments, aerobics, games, walks, etcetera) \* Films: screen them in at least two places simultaneously; keep to the schedule; repeat screenings of the most requested films; publicize requests for loans of films (vcr tapes) \* in dorm housing, investigate feasibility of an alcohol-free floor ("wet" and "dry" floors) \* continue availability of child care, if requested in advance (some comments noted that in '86, child care was not provided, but they obviously didn't read the registration forms) \* further discussion about outreach to a more diverse population - this raised the issue of where the Symposium will be publicized, since a very small segment of the gay/lesbian community subscribes to any sort of gay publication \* to facilitate transportation, set up a ride board using NLN's Gay-Lesbian Phonenumber as a central networking source \* do not have two of the same dances (Saturday and Sunday nights), but plan alternate entertainment/events \* investigate providing food service on a "contract" basis, as with this past Symposium in Portland/Gorham - a flat fee for all meals rather than including two (out of a total of seven meals) in cost of the registration \* make sure that the bulletin board, with messages and schedule changes, is kept up-dated during the weekend \* use a volunteer/work-exchange system again for the necessary chores at Symposium \* Repeat the set up of the BYOB bar system \* provide a "tour to the top of Maine", but possibly include the cost in the registration, and schedule it for a time during the Symposium, rather than an extra event following the closing session \* the issue which was of concern at Symposium XIII in '86 was



2 discussed at great length: separate men's and women's spaces. It was felt that workshops will not exclude anyone, but spaces should be made available for non-workshop activities, an "agenda-free" space; include some type of statement in the booklet acknowledging people's needs for separate spaces, but emphasizing an inclusionary policy at Symposium \* establish some time of "quiet hours" in the dorm \* attempt to have a bookseller with lesbian/gay materials, something that was missing this past year (no more gay bookstore in Maine) \* target outreach to the youth groups, including Outright in Portland, Wilde-Stein and other student groups in Maine \* Keynotes were discussed, as were possible entertainers. \* At Symposium XIII in '86, there were 186 registrants (56% men, 44% women) with 60% from USA, 40% from Canada; looking at a figure of 200 for '89. \* THEME: Since 1989 is 20 years since the Stonewall riots in New York City, when drag queens fought back when the cops began their routine harrassment of the bars (the beginning of the modern gay/lesbian movement), this seemed a natural starting point for a theme for Symposium XVI, focusing on our history, where we are now, and where we're going. It was suggested that we have a contest for the theme, with entries due by late fall. \* WORKSHOP TOPICS mentioned included: \* couples \* alcohol \* networking of US and Canadian activists, possibly some sort of "summit" workshop/discussion \* marriage and break-up \* being a child of an alcoholic \* having children/artificial insemination \* youth and elderly (extending outreach not only to young people but to older gays and lesbians, perhaps through such groups as Senior Action in a Gay Environment - SAGE - in New York City \* Being out for years \* coming out \* parents of gays and lesbians, with outreach to that organization.

The next meeting will include budgeting (and applying for a grant), and further discussion of all of the above and more. The meeting will be during the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance weekend retreat in Aroostook County. (Details in members' calendars). Everyone's ideas are encouraged -- we need you! DON'T BE SHY!!

The other item of business was a vote on increasing the annual membership dues, from \$13 to \$15 (US and CDN money at par). The vote, which included two absentee ballots, was unanimously in favor of the increase. In a discussion preceding the vote, it was noted that even though Lambda has received grants to help with expenses, these are for specific projects and all our costs are constantly increasing. The organization must maintain an "in-the-black" status.

Beginning October 1, 1988, annual membership in Northern Lambda Nord will be \$15 US/CDN. The annual "Membership Renewal Party" will be held October 1st. Admission to that party will be \$15 for one year's membership or \$6 for non-members. Details in members' calendar. ▽

#### - NEW BRUNSWICK COALITION NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK

The province's recently-formed and increasingly-active civil rights group, the New Brunswick Coalition for Human Rights Reform/*La Coalition pour la réforme des droits de la personne*, has been making a concerted effort on two fronts: lobbying MLAs throughout the province as well as Ministers in Fredericton to amend the Human Rights Code to include "sexual orientation", and soliciting donations to finance these efforts. For two weekends at Fredericton's only gay-lesbian club, Dance Trax, a Coalition booth was set up to provide information, answer questions, and take contributions. The following weekend, despite some mildly inclement weather, a group of nearly 20 supporters attended a fundraising picnic near Woodstock. During these three weekends, the Coalition was able to raise over \$600. But the work continues, help is needed in terms of individuals volunteering time, and of course providing the needed financial help. COALITION: CP/POB 1556, succ/Sta. A, Fredericton E3B 5G2. ▽



## - VIOLENCE AGAINST US IS ON THE INCREASE

Anti-gay and -lesbian harassment and violence continues to rise, according to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. The number of incidents reported to the Task Force from across the US went from 4946 in 1986 to 7008 in 1987. These incidents included verbal harassment, intimidation, assault, police abuse, vandalism, arson, bomb threats, and murder. The reported violence was perpetrated by lone individuals, gangs, and organized hate groups; it occurred on the street, in school, on campus, in jail and prison, and even in the home. The US Justice Department, after a study of hate-motivated crimes, concluded that "homosexuals are probably the most frequent victims" of hate violence. A Hate Crimes Statistics Act, recently passed by Congress, will mandate that the US government begin compiling statistics of hate crimes motivated by a number of factors, now to include one's sexual orientation. This was an historic victory, gaining passage of this bill with the inclusion of lesbians and gaymen as part of the required statistics listings.

## - LES DROITS DES COUPLES (le magazine RG, Montréal)

*Les couples de lesbiennes n'ont pas droit aux avantages financiers de l'assurance-santé réservés aux gens mariés, en a ainsi décidé la Cour suprême de l'Ontario. Karen Andrews affirmait, pour sa part, qu'elle et son amie Mary Trenholm avait le droit d'être considérées comme un couple marié en vertu du programme d'assurance-santé de l'Ontario, puisqu'elles vivent ensemble depuis neuf ans. La Cour n'a pas retenu cet argument, invoquant que les couples homosexuels, ne procréant pas, ne peuvent être considérés sur le même pied, ne pouvant par conséquent se prévaloir des bénéfices monétaires généralement consentis aux époux hétérosexuels de droit ou de fait.*

## - IGL00 TRIPS

The International Gay and Lesbian Outdoors Organizations, known as IGL00, are planning a rock climbing trip in Québec. Scheduled for Friday, August 26 through Monday, September 5 (Labor Day), they'll begin in the Charlevoix region near Rivière-du-Loup, an area which offers climbs number-rated from 5.5 to 5.10. Then some R&R is planned in Québec City, with short climbs on local rocks. They'll continue with a few more days of climbing in the Laurentians. For more information about IGL00 and this and other activities, contact Mark Mueller, 46 Fuller Street, Dorchester, Massachusetts 02124, 617/436-6906 (days), 288-6419 (eve).

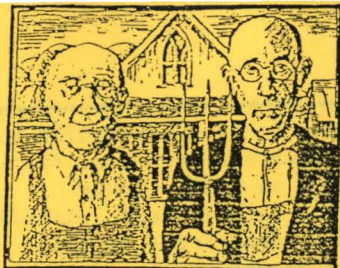
## - CLUB EGALITE - CLUB EQUALITY

This region's first gay-lesbian club opened Saturday, July 30 in Sainte-Anne-de-Madawaska, just up-river from Saint-Leonard/Van Buren. Called Club Equality, it is owned by a Lambda member, and operates Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings, 9pm-2am (N-B), 8pm-1am (Maine). It is a private membership club, and non-members may be admitted with a member. Annual membership is \$50 (CDN), \$40 (US). Non-members are admitted for \$2. The club is on Main Street in Sainte-Anne, downstairs from the "Capricorn". Private parking and the club entrance are around the back of the building. Membership forms are available at the club, or you may send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Northern Lambda Nord. Cheques for membership should be made out to "Gilles Ringuette" and may be mailed with your membership form to Lambda (POB 990, Caribou 04736).

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Communiqué





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## Gay/Lesbian GUIDE Lesbienne/Gai

- ★★★ **NORTHERN MAINE & NEW BRUNSWICK:** Northern Lambda Nord (NLN), CP/POB 990, Caribou, Maine 04736 USA  
Gay-Lesbian Phoneline/Télégai, 207/498-2088
- **FREDERICTON:** Frederickton Lesbians and Gays (FLAG), POB 1556, Station A, E3B 5G2, 506/457-2156
- **ORONO:** Wilde-Stein Club, Memorial Union, University of Maine, 04469 - meets Thursdays, 6-9pm  
Sutton Lounge, Memorial Union Building
- **BANGOR:** Bangor Area Gay-Lesbian-Straight Coalition (BAGLSC - "Bagels"), c/o 87 Sunset Strip,  
Brewer, 04412 - meets first Sunday and third Thursday each month, 7pm at 87 Sunset Strip;  
Dances held at old Bangor Community College Student Union, first and third Saturday each month,  
8pm-1am (alcohol & drug-free)
- **BANGOR:** DownEast Lesbian Gay Organization (DELGO), c/o Unitarian Church, 126 Union Street 04401  
207/942-6503
- **QUEBEC CITY:** Groupe Gai de l'Université Laval (GGUL), CP 2500, Pavillon Lemieux, Cité Universitaire,  
Sainte-Foy, G1K 7P4, 418/648-2751
- **QUEBEC CITY:** Relais d'espérance, 617, rue Montmartre, G1N 1B3, 418/522-3301
- **MONCTON:** Gais et Lesbiennes de Moncton/Gays and Lesbians of Moncton (GLM), CP/POB 7102, Riverview,  
E1B 1V0, 506/858-1013
- **PORTLAND:** Gay/Lesbian Alliance, University of Southern Maine, 92 Bedford Street, 04102, 207/780-4085
- **PORTLAND:** Harbor Masters, Inc., leather-levi group, POB 4044, 04104
- **PORTLAND:** Dignity/Maine, Catholic group, POB 8113, 04104
- **PORTLAND:** Lesbian/Gay Committee, Maine Chapter, National Association of Social Workers, POB 5112,  
Station A, 04101
- **PORTLAND:** Maine Bisexual People's Network, POB 1792, 04104, 207/780-4085 (message)
- **PORTLAND:** Portland Pride Committee, POB 5112, Station A, 04112, 207/883-6934
- **BELFAST:** Maine Lesbian Feminists, POB 125, 04915
- **CUR PAPER:** A Voice for Lesbians and Gaymen in Maine, published monthly, \$12 for one year subscription,  
POB 10744, Portland, 04104
- **MAINE LESBIAN/GAY POLITICAL ALLIANCE**, statewide group, POB 108, Yarmouth, 04096

#### AIDS information SIDA

- Maine - AIDS-line, Monday & Wednesday, 6-9pm, Saturday, 10am-1pm, 1-800/851-AIDS (-2437)
- New/Nouveau-Brunswick - AIDS-line, 1-800/561-4009 or 459-7518 (Fredericton)

- ★★★ **COMMUNIQUE** is published ten times yearly by Northern Lambda Nord, an organization serving the  
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